

Pesticide Labels' Precautionary Statements Relating to Bees

Recently, California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) provided guidance on pesticide label requirements from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the protection of bees. If the pesticide is toxic to bees, there is a required statement that must be in the label "Environment Hazards" section. Depending on the relative toxicity to bees and whether the pesticide exhibits "residual toxicity" (RT) after the application, one of four statements is prescribed.

The table of label statements from the EPA is presented below. Questions about regulatory enforcement of label statements can be answered by your Pesticide Regulation Program inspector.

Toxicity Group	Precautionary Statement if Extended Residual Toxicity is Displayed	Precautionary Statement if Extended Residual Toxicity is not Displayed
I Product contains any active ingredient with acute LD ₅₀ of 2 micrograms/bee or less	This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.	This product is highly toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds while bees are actively visiting the treatment area.
II Product contains any active ingredient(s) with acute LD ₅₀ of greater than 2 micrograms/bee but less than 11 micrograms/bee.	This product is toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment or residues on blooming crops or weeds. Do not apply this product if bees are visiting the treatment area.	This product is toxic to bees exposed to direct treatment. Do not apply this product while bees are actively visiting the treatment area.
III All others.	No bee caution required.	No bee caution required.